

8 January 1976

Lon WH

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted]

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SUBJECT:

Buchen Letter to Chairmen Church
and Pike re Disclosures

1. My only comment deals with the penultimate paragraph, second sentence, which could be misunderstood as a suggestion that the Executive participate in the drafting and finalizing of the Select Committee reports. I am sure that however much we might want to do this, we recognize that its appearance would be to undermine the integrity of the results of the Committees' deliberations. This could be remedied by striking the words, "in completing" and substituting words such as "as they complete."

2. Also, for your information, you may be interested in the most recent missiles we have sent to others on the Hill on this same general topic.

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Acting Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

✓ - OLC Subject

1 - OLC Chrono

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OLC 76 0053

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: Morning Meeting Participants		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: The attached was received from the White House this morning. Please submit your comments by COB, 8 January.		
FROM: SC/DCI		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 35-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you and to Senator Church on behalf of the President to express his concern over recent disclosures by both the House and Senate Select Committees investigating US foreign intelligence activities. During the course of these investigations there have been several unauthorized disclosures of classified information, the most recent of which involved draft House Select Committee reports on US covert operations. The Senate Select Committee has also acted unwisely in publishing detailed reports on US clandestine activities abroad replete with names and details clearly in excess of those required to make their point.

The President has asked me to emphasize to you that such actions cannot continue if this Administration is to retain any semblance of control over the conduct of the nation's foreign policy. As but one example, we have received word that, subsequent to the publication of one of the Senate reports, the leader of those very factions that might have provided a democratic alternative to the subject country's military regime has been politically destroyed, and personally tainted by publication of the fact of his involvement with the CIA. I need not remind the Senate Select Committee that the President's appeal to refrain from publishing such a report of this nature, much less the names and details of the participants, went virtually unheeded. There is a possibility that, were current drafts of House Select Committee reports on US covert activities abroad published, similar events could occur which would have an even greater effect on future US foreign policy options.

In light of recent events, it is also not unreasonable to assume that further disclosures about clandestine US activities abroad, whether through leaks to the press or from unilateral Committee decisions to publish classified data, could have untold consequences

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for the safety of our [] personnel overseas and for our capability to solicit cooperation from foreign sources in the future -- cooperation which is vital to the continued flow of reliable foreign intelligence.

It is the firm hope of this Administration that it can continue to work with each Select Committee to find ways to improve the performance of our Intelligence Community. You can be assured that appropriate agencies of the Executive Branch stand ready to cooperate fully in offering any assistance the two Select Committees may require ^{as they} in completing the drafting and finalizing of their reports. The President asks only that you pause to reflect on whether or not the publication of data that by its nature cannot help but have a negative impact on US foreign relations or perhaps even endanger the safety or well being of Americans serving abroad is truly in the national interest.

As we approach the New Year, let us both, the Executive and the Congress, demonstrate to the people of this country that there is a responsible and yet effective way to carry on the business of investigating a vital component of our national security without endangering the very security this component was designed to protect.

Sincerely,

Honorable Otis G. Pike
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515